

NOTES—HERE AND THERE

Conducted by the Secretary

Mr. B. T. Gault's new pocket Check List of the Birds of Illinois came from the press just in time for the Chicago meeting. This 80-page booklet, which is admirably arranged and durably printed, may be purchased of The Illinois Audubon Society, 10 So. LaSalle St., Chicago.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, with which The Wilson Club is affiliated, is holding its meetings this year at Boston, December 26th to 30th. Next year The Association is scheduled to meet at Cincinnati and at Washington in 1924.

Messrs. A. C. Bent and Frank Willard spent the past spring in Arizona making field studies of the birds there. Mr. Bent secured some wonderfully fine photos as well as other material for his forthcoming volumes. Mr. Willard, who formerly lived at Tombstone, knew the ground as well as the birds. A better matched pair of field workers would be hard to find.

Among the fine paintings shown in the recent exhibition at The Field Museum was one of Canada Geese, executed with an unusually fine color effect, by Courtney Brandreth. Admirers of this picture will be interested to know that it is reproduced, in colors, in the November Country Life in America, together with several other wild fowl paintings by the same artist.

Rev. H. E. Wheeler of Conway, Ark., spent the month of July at Lake Junaluska in the high Alleghanies of western North Carolina, where he had opportunity to make some interesting studies of birds and in other branches of natural history.

The considerable amount of nature book advertising has paved the way for a new monthly journal. The Nature Magazine, of Washington, D. C., proposes to treat of all forms of natural history in a popular manner.

From Secretary Palmer, of the A. O. U., the writer is in receipt of a letter communicating a vote of thanks from that organization to The Wilson Club for the courtesies extended on the occasion of its recent meeting at Chicago. In reply we might truly say — "the pleasure was ours."

A reporter of one of the Chicago papers sat in at one of the program sessions at the Chicago meeting and, when it was over, rushed to headquarters to write up half a column to cover. The entire space was given over to the nuptial scandals Mr. Baldwin had discovered among his colony of house wrens. Such is newspaper "news value."

Mr. H. A. Brandt of Cleveland spent several weeks the past spring in Utah and collected some nice sets of the rarer birds there. Mr. Brandt makes full use of the camera and notebook and has some choice material to show for his season's work.

The writer is gathering data on the present distribution of the Swallow-tailed Kite, with a view to ascertaining how near to extinction it is. Over most of its former range it has disappeared due no doubt to the easy target it affords the gunner by reason of its unwariness. Members, who have recorded it within the past few years, will confer a favor on the writer by sending him such data as they may have.

Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood of the Field Museum, accompanied by Messrs. Colin C. Sanborn and Boardman Conover, also of that institution, sailed in November for Chile, where they will engage in collecting material for The Museum. Dr. Osgood plans to return in the spring; the others are expecting to remain for a year.

Students of birdlife, within travelling distance of our National Forests throughout the land, are finding them to be among the most desirable spots in which to spend a few days for nature study. Auto roads and trails are being developed so that change of location or environment may be readily accomplished. 156,000,000 acres are included in the 149 preserves now established. A list of the Forests may be had by writing to the U. S. Forest Service at Washington. The creation or conservation in these Forests, of lake, marsh, and swamp areas, suited to the breeding of certain birds, is a field of activity that deserves the support of organized conservationists. To all but the naturalist, there is but one thing to do to a swamp or marsh area and that is to drain it. Most of the National Forests will eventually become National Parks.

Mr. Fred C. Lincoln, of The Biological Survey, spent part of October in Southern Illinois where he had good success in trapping and banding ducks. The birds were caught in flocks, chiefly in large pen traps made of poultry netting and located in shallow water.

An excellent group photo of the Chicago meeting was taken in front of The Field Museum. The prints, which are about 6x20 inches in size, may be had for \$1.50, of Kaufman and Fabry, Photographers, 1125 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago. The writer has prepared a blueprint diagram showing the names of those appearing in the picture and will send a print to any member with his compliments.

It is with much pleasure that the retiring secretary greets his successor, in the person of Mr. Gordon Wilson of Bowling Green, Ky. The writer has the privilege of knowing him personally and has found him to be a most enthusiastic bird student and an "omnivorous" worker. As to whether or not he can lay claim to being a decendent of the famous early ornithologist, whose name honors our Club, the writer cannot say, but trusts at least that the name will prove no handicap. Our new Secretary is Professor of Literature and Language at Kentucky State Normal College.

Our new Treasurer needs no great amount of introduction to our members since he is already one of our most famous and successful bird-banders. The application he has shown in this work will serve him well in his new duties since the work of the Treasurer is no small

job. Mr. Lyon "earns his daily" by conducting a prosperous real estate business at Waukegan, Ill. Our retiring Treasurer, Mr. Fordyce, merited the well deserved resolution of thanks extended him at our recent meeting, for no one better than the Secretary knows just how much painstaking work he rendered in the discharge of his duties.

With this, your retiring Secretary lays down his pen and hands this department over to our veteran editor to maintain or abolish as he sees fit. The five years I have served The Club have brought me much pleasure and satisfaction, for the personnel of The Wilson Club is indeed a rare mixture of coöperation and good fellowship. The writer expects to improve the time, now made available, by doing some intensive ornithological work in his own state and in assisting with the furthering of the work of The Club in such ways as its officers may suggest.

A. F. G.